RESOLUTION R-5748

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND OPPOSING INTITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 26-638 CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS AT K-12 SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, Washington State has placed a ballot measure before the voters with the official ballot measure title of "Initiative Measure No. 26-638 concerns participation in athletics at K-12 schools"; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution R-5240 declaring Kirkland a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community for all people, and reaffirmed this on June 17, 2025, by adopting Resolution R-5686 affirming inclusion and safety for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland's 2044 Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement affirms that Kirkland is a place where all people are valued and commits the City to celebrating diversity, inclusion, and the active combating of discrimination as guiding principles for public decision-making; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution R-5548, establishing Kirkland's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) 5-Year Roadmap and embedding equity and belonging into City programs, services, and community engagement processes; and

WHEREAS, the City's Sustainability Strategic Plan recognizes the importance of supporting a sense of belonging, access to services, cultural inclusion, and equitable opportunities for all as essential to maintaining a healthy community; and

WHEREAS, schools serving Kirkland's shared community play a central role in fostering safe, inclusive environments where all students can learn, grow, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2044 Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement and human services goals emphasize a community free from discrimination where individuals can achieve well-being, access resources, and enjoy educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution R-5738 endorsing the Kirkland Youth Bill of Rights as a reference guide when considering policy decision that may impact young people, including a focus on equity, inclusion, and belonging in youth spaces and programs that help young people thrive; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the text of Initiative Measure No. 26-638, the initiative would require any student participating in a competition activity intended for female students to provide the school with documentation signed by the student's personal health care provider verifying the student's biological sex, relying only on the student's reproductive anatomy, genetic makeup, or normal endogenously produced testosterone levels; and

WHEREAS, the measure could introduce intrusive medical eligibility reviews, mandate additional administrative processes, and potentially expose school staff and students to unwarranted medical verification procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City supports nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression in school athletics and reinforces its commitment to policies that promote equity, nondiscrimination, and trust in public institutions serving diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, since 2025, the City Council advocated for legislation that requires correctional facilities to conduct strip searches in accordance with an individual's stated gender identity and, as a result, Washington State House Bill (HB) 1604 was signed into law in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Initiative Measure No. 26-638 is scheduled to go to Washington voters during the November 3, 2026 General Election; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with RCW 29B.45.010(1), notice of the meeting during which this resolution is being voted on included the title and number of the ballot measure, and members of the public and members of City Council were each afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of opposing views; and

WHEREAS, with this Resolution, the City Council desires to oppose Initiative Measure No. 26-638.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Kirkland hereby declares its official position in opposition to Initiative Measure No. 26-638 concerning participation in athletics at K-12 schools.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 20th day of October, 2026.

Signed in authentication thereof this 20th day of October, 2026.

Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:

Anastasiya Warhol, City Clerk